United Nations S/2012/796

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 November 2012

Original: English

Letter dated 29 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to our letters of 22 September 2012 and 3 October 2012 which reported the acts of aggression carried out by the Syrian Government between 20 September and 3 October 2012, I am writing to inform you, under instructions from my Government, about the recent violations committed by the Syrian Government on the Turkish border, targeting our national security in flagrant breach of international law.

Despite several warnings communicated to Syria through diplomatic channels, the shelling by the Syrian army resulted in the deaths of five Turkish citizens, all women and children, on 3 October 2012. The violation of our borders continued even after this tragic event, for which it has publicly acknowledged its responsibility. A list covering the acts of aggression carried out between 4 and 19 October 2012 is attached herewith (see annex).

Turkey is fully aware of the intentions of the Syrian Government which were put into practice through various means of aggression and provocation, such as the targeting of innocent civilians across the border.

Turkey will continue to exercise its rights emanating from international law in full compliance with the established rules and regulations, in order to protect its citizens and national borders.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and the annex thereto could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit Çevik
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 29 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Chronology of the events on the Turkish-Syrian border, 4-19 October 2012

1. 4 October 2012 (Altinözü/Hatay): One mortar shell fell in an uninhabited area (approximately 1,200 m from the border) near the Hırbi Çiftliği settlement, situated within Hacıpaşa district.

2. 5 October 2012 (Yayladağı/Hatay): Around 1600, one mortar shell fell within the area of responsibility of the Belengöz military border post, and three bullets bouncing from the Syrian side passed over a Turkish military vehicle on the move.

3. 6 October 2012 (Yayladağı/Hatay): Around 0700, one mortar shell fell within the area of responsibility of the Güveççi military border post.

4. 6 October 2012 (Yayladağı/Hatay): At 1130, one mortar shell fell within the area of responsibility of the Güveççi military border post.

5. 6 October 2012 (Yayladağı/Hatay): At 1430, one mortar shell fell within the area of responsibility of the Belengöz military border post.

6. 7 October 2012 (Akçakale/Şanliurfa): Around 1600, one cannon shell fell on the premises of the TMO building.

7. 7 October 2012 (Altinözü/Hatay): Around 2000, one mortar shell fell in an uninhabited area within Hacıpaşa district.

8. 8 October 2012 (Altinözü/Hatay): Around 1505, one mortar shell fell 150 m inside the Turkish border (2 km south of Hacıpaşa district).

9. 17 October 2012 (Altinözü/Hatay): Around 1800, one mortar shell fell 150 m from the Çarşamba Çiftliği settlement, situated within Hacıpaşa district (3 m on the Turkish side of the Asi River, the border line between Turkey and Syria).

10. 19 October 2012 (Altinözü/Hatay): Around 1305, one cannon shell that fell 30 m from the Ziyaret military border post (400 m from the Turkish-Syrian border) did not explode.